

Attorney Docket No.: FMCE-P073

Remarks

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-9, 14-18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Rogen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,515,213) in view of Boehm, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,456,314). Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly distinguish applicant's invention from Rogen and Boehm. Accordingly, claim 1 now specifies that applicant's seal is installable in a bore which includes a first diameter and a generally smooth recessed sealing surface which is undercut into the bore and which comprises a second diameter that is larger than the first diameter.

Neither Rogen nor Boehm discloses a bore having such a recessed sealing surface. Even assuming, as the Examiner asserts, that Boehm's wickers 23 form a recessed surface in the bore 13, these wickers clearly do not form a *generally smooth* recessed sealing surface. In addition, the wickers 23 do not comprise a second diameter which is larger than the diameter of the bore 13.

Thus, even assuming *arguendo* that the combination of Boehm with Rogen is proper, such a combination does not render the invention recited in applicant's claim 1 obvious. Therefore, claim 1 is clearly patentable over any permissible combination of Rogen and Boehm. Furthermore, since the remaining rejected claims depend from claim 1, these claims are also patentable over any permissible combination of Rogen and Boehm.

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New claims 21-27 have been added to the application. These claims are submitted as being allowable over the prior art of record.

In light of the foregoing, claims 1, 3, 4, 7-9, 14-18 and 20-27 are submitted as allowable. Favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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